

### **REMARKS**

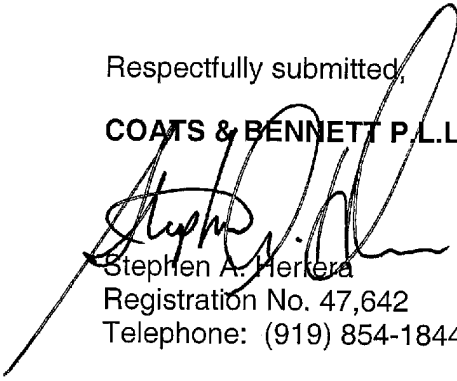
Applicant submits the following claim amendments for consideration by the Examiner prior to examination on the merits. The amendments cancel the existing claims 1-28, and add new claims 29-58. New claims 29-58 are substantially similar to (now cancelled) claims 1-28, but are written to ensure that the language of the claims comports with U.S. practice. No new matter has been added.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter the amendments prior to examination on the merits, and issue a notice of allowance for all pending claims.

September 8, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

**COATS & BENNETT P.L.L.C.**



Stephen A. Herrera

Registration No. 47,642

Telephone: (919) 854-1844